

NOVEMBER 24, 2019
CHRIST THE KING
SUNDAY



Give thanks for the reign of Christ.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	Luke 23:33-43	Christ the crucified king
Monday	Jeremiah 23:1-6	A message of hope
Tuesday	Colossians 1:11-20	The supremacy of Christ
Wednesday	Jeremiah 30:18-24	The Lord will rescue the nation
Thursday	Philippians 4:4-9	Pray with thanksgiving
Friday	Revelation 21:5-27	The new Jerusalem
Saturday	Psalms 46	God is our mighty fortress
Sunday	Matthew 24:36-44	The sudden coming of salvation

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, and may you be prepared to endure everything with patience, while joyfully giving thanks to the Father.

Colossians 1:11-12a (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Lord Jesus, help us to give thanks for your reign and to forgive as we have been forgiven. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Lord of lords and King of kings, with voice of thanks we surely sing. Give us now our daily bread, gratefully received in heart and head. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from Christ's glorious power, and may you be prepared to endure everything with patience and joy. (Colossians 1:11)



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HYMN OF THE WEEK

Jesus, Remember Me



CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- In what ways does a shepherd care for the flock?
- Would you rather be a shepherd or a king? Why?
- What is the difference between an earthly king and Christ the King?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Colossians 1:11-20.

The kings of the Old Testament were considered shepherds, and as shepherds they failed miserably. They scattered God's sheep, God's people, instead of leading them into the future with peace, justice, and trust in God. Jeremiah points out that God would have to intervene directly to execute justice and put an end to war (Jeremiah 23:1-6). In Colossians 1, we see the results of God's intervention. We have been rescued from the power of darkness and have received redemption, the forgiveness of sins (vv. 13-14). This is no earthly shepherd or king: "For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell," and through whom all things—things in heaven and things on earth—have been reconciled to God (vv. 19-20). What we could not do, what God's own earthly kings in Judah and Israel could not do, God did alone through Christ. For reasons that we cannot even fully grasp, list, or tell, we give thanks to God for the reign of Christ. Take a moment and—though never a complete understanding or list—give thanks for how Christ serves as ruler of the universe for you and all creation.

Pray: **Dear Creator and Redeemer, in Christ we give thanks for your goodness and mercy that far exceeds all that we can know or understand. Help us to give thanks as we are able. Amen.**

SERVICE

Luke 23:33-43 tells of a dark time in the life of Jesus. He was arrested and punished for something he did not do. Jesus did not get angry but asked God to forgive the people. On the cross, Jesus had a criminal on his left and on his right. One of them said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom" (v. 42). Jesus replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise" (v. 43). Christian ministries reach out to those incarcerated with hope through Jesus Christ. Do you know of a prison ministry? Pray for those who are in prison and for those who work with them.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Both adults and children lead busy lives. Moments of quiet are not easy to find. From cell phones to computers to work and school and sports, we fill our days with noise and screen time. This distracts us from God. This week's reading from Psalm 46:10 reminds us to "Be still and know that I am God!" Take five minutes each day to turn off the television/radio, and be silent. Be still and listen to God. After the silence, write down your thoughts on a piece of paper and place it in your Bible as a marker for Psalm 46. At the end of the week, review your notes.

Why do you think God desires stillness? What difference does it make?



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